



FRIENDS OF ST OSMUND'S CHURCH – MELBURY OSMOND
NEWSLETTER 2016-2017

EXTRA FUNDING TO THE P.C.C. THIS YEAR

In the past financial year 2016-2017 the Friends made a contribution of £5,000 to the Parochial Church Council. This follows last year's payment of £510 and brings the total funds provided by the Friends to assist in "the preservation of the fabric of the Church and Churchyard " (our principal objective) to nearly £33,000 in the past 21 years. Our support last year was a stage payment to cover the cost of additional maintenance to the church and in the churchyard, following the recent Quinquennial survey. A further £2,000 as a final stage payment will be paid to the P.C.C. in mid 2017. The Friends also anticipate approving a payment of £2,700 to the P.C.C. in respect of part of the cost of a new automated clock winder. We also expect to extend our support by contributing £1,500 towards the cost of the recent refurbishment of the flag pole and weather vane on the church tower. Following such payments the sum of approximately £17,000 would remain in the care of the Friends to assist future essential projects. It will be noted that this balance is well down from the £25,500 that was held at the end of March 2016 and shows that the Friends are being really active and supportive of our well loved church.

The "100 Club", which raises £500 each year, continues to be run successfully, albeit on a temporary basis, as we still seek a volunteer to take over as a regular coordinator. Fortunately, owing to sterling efforts by Nick Kettlewell, 80 membership numbers were taken up at the 2016 Summer Show. The remaining 20 slots were quickly filled and the first 2016-2017 seasonal draw was held on the 1st September. We have been fortunate, but urgently need permanent support to run the "100 Club" if it is to continue.

The "traditional" January travel talk was given by John Forrest and was entitled "Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk" - 200 miles from St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay. This proved most interesting and entertaining, a delicious beef stew was served and a net total of £392 was raised.

As you will see from the accompanying form, which includes sections on donations, subscriptions and Gift Aid, Barbara Harris is our Membership Secretary and can be contacted at Charity Cottage, Melbury Osmond, Dorchester, DT2 0LS.

Many thanks to all who have assisted the Friends financially as well as to those who have given their time and energies to ensure that the Friends remain active in the village. Hopefully, the Committee may look forward to your continued support.

Chairman

NB. The AGM of the Friends will be held on Thursday June 15th at 6.00pm in the Reading Room. Please will all members of the Friends try to attend, as well as those in the village who value having a well kept church at its centre . Thank you.